

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-10 are pending, Claim 2 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and Claim 1 having been amended by way of the present amendment.


In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 3-6 and 8 were rejected as being unpatentable over Yui et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,999,674); and Claims 2, 7, and 9-10 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Applicants appreciate the identification of allowable subject matter.

In reply, the feature of Claim 2 has been incorporated into Claim 1. Since Claim 2 was indicated as containing allowable subject matter, it is now believed that amended Claim 1 is also in condition for formal allowance. As each of the other claims depends from Claim 1, it is believed that Claims 3-10 also patentable define over the asserted prior art.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the forgoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1 and 3-10, as amended, patentable defines over the asserted prior art. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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